



James Goold House
PO Box 146
East Melbourne Vic 8002
Australia

4 March 2013

Dear Friends,

As you may be aware, a *Review of the Accreditation Requirements for Pastoral Associates and Lay Chaplains within the Archdiocese of Melbourne* has been conducted and the findings presented by Dr Peter Carpenter.

The review was carried out within the context of the expected growth in numbers of Catholics within the Archdiocese of Melbourne and an increase in the already very large demands upon the Church's parish, educational, health and social welfare services. Each Diocese in Australia was invited to provide material to inform this Review. All priests and pastoral associates were invited by then Bishop Tim Costelloe SDB, former Chair of the Advisory Board for the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation, to make a submission to the Review. Interviews and group consultations were held and a wide range of historical and theological material consulted.

As a result of this work, the Review has made eight key recommendations.

After consideration of the recommendations and an investigation into the implementation requirements for each area, the following course of action has been decided upon.

1. Accept the key recommendations made in the Review
2. Publish the report in its entirety for your information
3. Document the actions for implementation

These documents will be made available on the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation website, <http://www.cam.org.au/evangelisation/>.

Central to the recommendations made in the Review is the establishment of an authentically Catholic Secretariat for Lay Ecclesial Ministry. Its role will be to oversee all matters associated with the accreditation, supervision and ongoing support of Lay Ecclesial Ministers in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. It is proposed that this Secretariat be established as a small unit of the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation, with the aim of being operational in 2014.

Should you require any further information regarding the Review and its implementation, please contact Brother Mark O'Connor, Director, Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation on 03 9926 5600 or mark.oconnor@cam.org.au.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE